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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Tank NCO School of the KVP in Zeithain

ILLEGIB EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. [REDACTED] the tank NCO school in Zeithain numbered about 185 officers and 1,920 EM. The school was subordinate to the KVPD in Zeithain, which also controlled a school of about 300 officers, a 7th Special Company of 8 officers and 100 EM, a motor transport company of about 7 officers and 60 EM, and a maintenance company of about 7 officers and 60 EM. The tank school was organized into four battalions, each of which numbered 40 officers and 480 EM.

2. Officers observed at the school included Major General Arno von Lensky, of the Ministry of the Interior; Major Kapinsky (fnu), commander of the KVPD in Zeithain, ex-officer, about 42 years old; Captain Schulz (fnu), political officer of the KVPD; Lieutenant Colonel Fischer (fnu), commander of the NCO candidate school; Captain Fischel (fnu), deputy; Captain Herold (fnu), commander of the I Bn; Captain Kobelt (fnu), commander of the II Bn; Senior Lieutenant Paffrath (fnu), political officer of the II Bn; Senior Lieutenant Schaele (fnu), classified-material officer of the II Bn; Lieutenant Neugebauer (fnu), signal officer and FDJ secretary of the II Bn; Junior Lieutenant Engert (fnu), commander of the 1st Co of the II Bn; Lieutenant Zill (fnu), deputy political officer of the II Bn and commander of the 2d Co of the II Bn; Junior Lieutenant Zickmann (fnu), deputy commander of the 2d Co; Junior Lieutenant Kurz (fnu), political officer of the 2d Co; Junior Lieutenant Amerbach (fnu), officer on special assignment of the 2d Co; Junior Lieutenant Richter (fnu), leader of the 1st Platoon of the 2d Co; Junior Lieutenant Neidahl (fnu), leader of the 2d Platoon, who had held the rank of senior lieutenant in Prora and was demoted; Junior Lieutenant Retschke (fnu), leader of the 3d Platoon; and Junior Lieutenant Rasch (fnu), leader of the 4th Platoon. Two Soviet advisers, who wore the uniforms of KVP captains and came from a branch of the camp where a Soviet tank unit was stationed, visited the NCO candidate school about every four weeks and discussed training matters with the commanders of units. A Soviet officer, who wore a KVP uniform with the rank insignia of a major general, was adviser to the headquarters of the KVPD in Zeithain.

3. The school had 35 old T-34 tanks, another tank which was similar to the model T-34 tank, but was equipped with three hatches, 16 Edith ammunition tractors, about 1.4 meters high and about 3.5 meters long, and three BMW sedans and some Horch-Diesel trucks.

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- 25X1 4. Training included practices at company and battalion level and, [REDACTED] was excellent with the II Bn and was fair with the other battalions. Maneuvers involving Soviet units were scheduled to be held in the fall of 1953. Tactical instruction for one week included one 2-hour class per day on joint action of combined arms. Problems of tactical instruction included an attack on West Berlin. Measures suggested by the company commander on this occasion and subsequently discussed by the trainees called for Attack on West Berlin from the west and the east (east sector) by two tank units each of 116 tanks with ten accompanying infantrymen to each tank and, from the south and the north, by infantry task forces each supported by 80 tanks and artillery units after bombing by the air force and with employment per kilometer of front line of 1,000 barrels including tanks, AA guns, artillery, mortars, SP guns and AT guns. It was believed that West Berlin could be taken after two days.
5. About 70 percent of the EM at the NCO candidate school were 18 to 20 years old, and about 30 percent were 21 to 22 years old. Almost all men of the I, III and IV Bns came from Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, while most of the men of the II Bn came from Brandenburg and Berlin.

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1. Comment. [REDACTED] also mentioned the tank NCO candidate school under Lieutenant Colonel Fischer (fnu), in Zeithain. Major General Arno von Lenski is chief of the administration for tank and mechanized troops at the Ministry of the Interior.

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